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Previous References

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(1941)
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ML File No 128-41
Serial Nos 6

Later References

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos

Part B for

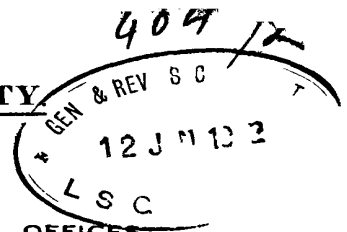
Jan 1942

SUBJECT

Proceedings of the meeting of the
Bangalore City Municipal Council
held on 30-12-41

2/1/42

BANGALORE CITY MUNICIPALITY



MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Bangalore 9th January 1942

No. C1 C 661/41

FROM K Hanumanthiya, Esq, B A LL B,
HON PRESIDENT
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
BANGALORE



H V Narayana Rao, Esq, B A LL B,
Secretary to Government,
Law Department,
Bangalore

SIR

In continuation of my letter No C1 C 661/41 of the 6th instant,
I have the honor to forward herewith, for the information of Government
a copy of the Proceedings No 18/41 of the Council Meeting dated
30th December 1941

I have the honor to be,
S i r,
your most obedient servant,

K Hanumanthiya
Honorary President

*Intro for perusal The Proceedings relate
to the opening of Brain Depots by the mldg*

AKS
13/1/42

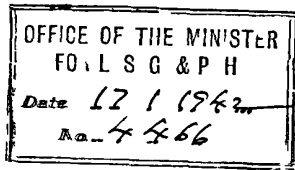
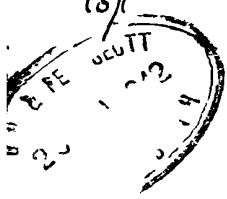
may be sent to Res Bd.

Also send the suggestion to the mldg

Law secy for

Minister)
LSG

13/1/42
17/1/42
22/1/42
23/1/42



R *Res Bd.*

*Sanctioning the opening of a
but has already begun*

No.18/41

Minutes of the Proceedings of the urgent Special Meeting of the City Municipal Council, Bangalore, held on Tuesday the 30th December 1941 at 4 p m in the Council Chamber of the City Municipal Offices, Bangalore, for consideration of the President's Note re the opening of Municipal Depots for sale of food-stuffs and grains at cost price to the poor of Bangalore City

--:oOo:--

Present

W. H Hanumanthappa, Esq.,

Honorary President.

Messrs

- 1 R Subbanna
- 2 N Kesavaiah, B.A., B.L
- 3 Ramalal Thiwari
- 4 V. Venkataramanappa
- 5 G Nanjappa
- 6 K Hanumanthiah, B.A., LL B.
- 7 T Gangadharaswamy
- 8 B. Naresimhiah
- 9 V Venkataswami Chetty
10. K Ganga Setty
- 11 K N ~~Shankar~~ Ramaswamy, B A.
- 12 K Shamaraaja Iyengar, B.A
- 13 M A Gopalaswami Iyengar, M.A , LL B
- 14 M K Narayana Iyengar, B A., B.L
- 15 H C Suryanarayana Rao
- 16 Mirza M Azizulla Beig
17. A J Khaleel, B A., B L.
- 18 V. Chikkayellappa

Absent

Messrs

- 1 V K. Govindarajulu, B A , B L
- 2 L S Raju, M A. (Hons), B L
- 3 H R Guruv Reddy, B A , LL B
- 4 M R Honnappa, B.A , B L.
- 5 B Subbiah, B Sc., LL B
6. Kota Kamakshiah Setty
7. O S Nasarulla Sheriff, M A., LL B
- 8 S.N.M Razvi
9. Dr M Royan, M D
10. Vacant
11. -do-

--:oOo:--

**PRESIDENT'S NOTE RE OPENING UP OF MUNICIPAL DEPOTS FOR SALE
OF FOODSTUFFS AND GRAINS, AT COST PRICE, TO THE POOR OF THE CITY.**

Owing to the war conditions, there is a huge scare all over the City of Bangalore about the exorbitant rise of prices of food-stuffs and grains, and inspite of the precautionary ~~measures~~ ^{steps} adopted by the Government, this ~~case~~ ^{scare} is still on the increase. There is no doubt some truth about this scare because many of the middlemen and profiteers have taken advantage of the present conditions and have inflated the prices to a great extent with a view to reap enormous profits. This increase would not have mattered much if it had only been confined to articles of luxury, but it is seen that this has covered up the everyday necessities of life, like the foodstuffs and grains, and thus affects the poor to a great extent. It is very essential that the Municipal Council should take up this matter and suggest ways and means of removing this inflation.

Legislative measures no doubt help to some extent in putting down such increase in prices, but if real relief has to be given to those who suffer most on account of this inflated price, viz, the poor classes, then some definite and concrete proposals have to be thought out. No amount of dearness allowance and such small monetary help will be of great and permanent relief to the sufferers. The Municipal Council should come forward and take up the task of giving relief to those poor people who are greatly affected by the exploitation of the middlemen and profiteers. I therefore propose that the Council may set apart a sum of about Rs 20,000/- for the present to open out a central depot for sale of foodstuffs and grains to the poor at actual cost price, in some suitable place in the central Market and subsequently open out branches in the several divisions. Such a thing has been tried in other places and has been found to be more effective and practical than merely passing laws and trying to enforce them. If this is done, the pamper of the middlemen and profiteers in this business will greatly diminish and the people will be helped to an enormous extent.

~~Sd/- W. H. Hanumanthappa~~

msn

~~Honorary President~~

At the outset, the President informed the House that they have all been given copies of his Note re the subject before the meeting, viz , opening out cheap grain depots for sale of food-stuffs and grains to the poor at cost prices, and that though the Government had taken measures to bring down the level of prices and control the same, it was very necessary for them to take measures to minimise the evils of profiteering So he had prepared this Note and had placed it before the House for their approval He also read out the letter from Government asking whether the Council would open out cheap grain depots for the benefit of the poor

Mr K Shamaraja Iyengar thanked the President for having placed such a laudable suggestion before the Council and observed that the Municipal Council should take steps to relieve the poor from the heavy prices and said that the sum of Rs 20,000/- set apart for this purpose was not enough as opening of a depot in one centre will not reduce the misery of the poor in all Divisions, and that at least, a sum of Rs 50,000/- should be set apart for the purpose and depots should be opened out in all divisions He also observed that by a perusal of the letter from Government, it was seen that they would also be agreeable to any steps that may be taken by the Municipality in this behalf He said that as the scare of high prices is very keen, they should take the necessary steps suggested in the Note immediately

Mr H C Suryanarayana Rao speaking next observed that there was looting of shops in other places on account of dissatisfaction due to heavy prices, that though such a danger was not pressing here, it may spread if proper steps are not ~~take~~ taken immediately and suggested that the Note may be approved He also said that profiteering in Bangalore City was not to such a great extent as it was in Madras and other places, but still even the little that was, was enough to cause distress to the poor and that the opening out of one depot or setting apart a sum of Rs 20,000/- was not enough But a modest start with one central depot was certainly

good and may be done soon

Mr A J Khaleel also heartily supported the suggestion and said that though one depot may not be helpful in all places, yet, the opening out of one such central depot would certainly have a great effect in checking the prices in other shops, that this may be started soon and the question of opening out - branches may be taken up gradually He said that for the present, the sum of Rs 20,000/- set apart was quite sufficient for the purpose as it would be floating capital with a large turn over He also said that in addition to the primary necessities of life, like rice, ragi, etc, they should also try to sell kerosene, salt, etc, whose prices have also been inflated He further said that it is more desirable that they should open out branches of depots in all localities where the poor reside

Mr G Nanjappa also supported the Note and said that opening out of a depots in the Market is not really helpful to the poor, since facilities are available to them in mandies also where retail sales also go on He said that if real help is to be given to the poor, such depots should be opened in places nearer their homes As re rates, he said that the rates fixed by Government were far higher than the actual market rates and hence it ~~shall~~ would not be really beneficial to purchase these things locally and try to sell them ~~in~~ at ~~a~~ lower rates So he said that it is better they get into touch with the growers direct and purchase the articles at lower rates and sell for actual cost He further stressed the opening out of depots in all divisions

Mr M A Gopalaswami Iyengar next spoke and said that it was no doubt laudable that the Municipality should take up the task of giving redress to the poor, but the suggestion of the Note to shoulder the entire responsibility was not practicable and the Government letter also indicated that they wanted to shirk their responsibility and make the Council shoulder it fully He therefore said that the following resolutions may

be adopted by the Council with advantage

This meeting of the Bangalore City Municipal Council resolve as follows -

1 That the Government be pleased to appoint the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of each District as a Food Controller for his district and to empower him under the Defence of India Act to regulate the prices of foodstuffs, to check profiteering and to open cheap grain depots for the benefit of the poor

2 That the Government be pleased to appoint Prices Advisory Committees for each District, Taluk, City or Town, to advise and assist the Food Controllers in the matter of food control in their respective areas,

3 That the Government be requested to give liberal financial aid to each municipal council, district board and village panchayat for the purpose of opening cheap grain depots for the benefit of the poor people within their respective areas,

4 That a Committee consisting of (1) the Honorary President, (2) the Municipal Commissioner, (3) Sri H C Suryanarayana Rao, (4) Janab A J Khaleel and (5) Sri W H Hanumanthappa be appointed to inquire into the question of control of foodstuffs in the City in all its aspects and to make recommendations within a fortnight from this date, in regard to the measures to be adopted for stopping profiteering and for supply of foodstuffs to poor people ~~wxx~~ at reasonable prices, together with an estimate of the cost required to carry out each of the proposed measures,

5 That all co-operative societies in the City be requested to open cheap grain depots especially for the use of the poor people,

6 That this Council appeals to all factories in the City to open cheap grain depots for the benefit of their employees

While moving the above propositions, Mr Mirza Azizulla Belg explained to the House that the increase of prices was due to many causes, Viz , partial failure of rains, fall in import

of Burma rice due to war conditions, natural increase of prices of agricultural products as agriculturists have to pay higher prices for other articles out of their normal income ~~and~~ from their produce and lastly to the play of the profiteering middlemen. He also said that the opening of many depots by the Municipality for the purpose would not solve the problem unless the Government comes to the ~~rescue~~ rescue and does its portion of the work in this direction. He therefore suggested that his propositions which go a long way in distributing the responsibility, may be accepted.

Mr Ramalal Thiwari spoke next supporting the above.

Mr Mirza Azizulla Beig spoke next in favour of the President's note and said that it is better if they start opening depots, that the Council would do well to take the suggestions of the merchants and others well versed in this trade and purchase from the cheapest markets and even while selling, they should as far as possible help to the poor and that they may do all this by forming a small Committee including the local merchants.

Mr K N Ramaswami next observed that though Mr M A Gopalaswami Iyengar's suggestions were quite good, yet, to work out everything on ~~that~~ that scale would mean a good deal of time, that the present situation required immediate attention and action on their part and hence they may open depots as per suggestions in the Note. He suggested the opening of several counters in each division for sale of these articles and urged that immediate action may be taken.

Mr M A Gopalaswami Iyengar explaining his propositions said that unless the Government, the co-operative societies and other associations came to their rescue, it would be a terrible job for the Municipality to undertake the entire thing that a request to Government in this behalf was in no way undesirable and the opening of one depot in a central place would not be helpful to the residents of all places. He also informed the House that the opening of a depot or depots by the

Municipality would mean extra expenditure to the Council which in turn will have to be put on the purchasers and hence the prices will have to be increased to that extent, that it would be very difficult to the Municipality to adjust itself to the variations in prices in the Market, as they will be bound to sell at their actual purchase prices. He therefore said that it is better that the entire question is investigated by a small committee who should be asked to submit their report in 15 days and they may take action on this later on.

Mr G Nanjappa then observed that they were opening depots not with a view to make any income but just to see that the prices are kept in a level and that they may start with one depot for the present.

Mr M F Narayana Iyengar opposed the Note and said that by opening up of such depots they will not be in a position to check the prices or profiteering, that on account of the present conditions, the prices of articles are high even at the places where they are grown, that to this they will have to add freight charges, etc, which would inflate our cost price, and the only remedy for all this is to request Government to come to the rescue of the Municipality, ~~by~~ by fixing up the prices of articles under the Defence of India Act. He said that the suggestion in the Note will be advantageous only when we are sure of our supply from outside at lower rates and when we can control the rates in the local market and not otherwise.

Mr H C Suryanarayana Rao next observed that their depot will be only for a sort of moral check on the rates in other shops, that by doing this they will be rendering a service to the poor and that they may also consider the suggestions of Mr M A Gopalaswami Iyengar at a later stage.

Mr A J Khaleel also supported Mr H C Suryanarayana Rao and said that it was not right for them to give up or shirk their responsibilities imagining all sorts of difficulties and that it is better they do their portion of the work and then

ask for Government help. He also observed that the propositions of Mr M A Gopalaswami Iyengar seemed to have been drafted more in the interest of the capitalists than rate-payers or growers. As re extra staff required, he observed that it is possible to run the depot with the present staff available and the sum of Rs 20,000/- is quite enough for the purpose. He said that by doing this, the Bangalore Municipality will be setting an example to all other Municipalities.

Mr N Kesaviengar observed that because the budget has come with a small closing balance, Mr M K Narayana Iyengar may be afraid of financial difficulties but as Government have also shown their interest in such a thing, it is possible to find the necessary funds. He said that the suggestions in the Note may be ~~xxxx~~ approved and the details may be worked out by a Committee.

The President summing up observed that though the Government have taken action to control prices, yet it is not very effective and will not be so unless the Municipality also joins. He also observed that by placing this Note before the House, it was not his intention to persecute the merchants nor to make the poor suffer and that as the poor and the ignorant cannot make out the laws and the opening out of Municipal depots will educate them about the prices and that they should do the things immediately and the Government is sure to help them in their efforts.

Mr K Shamaraja Iyengar then move that the Note may be approved and a Standing Committee consisting of the President, the Commissioner, Messrs ~~W H Hanumanthappa~~ W H Hanumanthappa, H C Suryanarayana Rao, G Nanjappa, A J Khaleel, B Narasimhiah, M N Seetharamiah of the 'Pouravani', K Gangasetty, K J Satyanarayana Setty, M V Narasimha Char (Merchant), with one editor of any of the local daily papers, may be formed to advise and supervise the work.

Then Mr M A Gopalaswami Iyengar observed that he would not press for his propositions and moved that 'as an experimental

measure, cheap grain depots may be opened by the Municipality in all the Nine Divisions and that a sum of Rs 20,000/- be advanced out of Municipal Funds for this purpose, and that the Committee suggested by Mr K Shamaraja Iyengar may be formed for the purpose "

This was approved by the House

Sd/- W H Hanumanthappa,
HONORARY PRESIDENT

' Copy "
W H Hanumanthappa
Honorary President -